

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
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C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 1297

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: YO, US, PEPR
SUBJ: AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH ASSISTANT FEDERAL SECRETARY FOR
FOREIGN AFFAIRS DRAGAN BERNARDIC

1. SUMMARY AMBASSADOR'S FEBRUARY 16 MEETING WITH BERNARDIC COVERED CHANGES TO TITO'S SCHEDULE IN WASHINGTON (REPORTED SEPTEL) AND CONTINUING YUGOSLAV CONCERN ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF DEMONSTRATIONS DURING TITO'S VISIT. AMBASSADOR ALSO HANDED BERNARDIC THE US COUNTERPROPOSAL FOR THE TEXT OF THE EXCHANGE OF NOTES ON THE DISPOSITION OF MAP EQUIPMENT. BERNARDIC REPORTED THAT THE TITO VISIT TO THE US, AND US-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS HAD BEEN VERY FAVORABLY ASSESSED BY THE PRESIDENCY OF YUGOSLAVIA DURING ITS FEBRUARY 16TH MEETING AND GAVE AMB YUGOSLAV DRAFT TEXT OF PROPOSED JOINT COMMUNIQUE FOR THE TITO VISIT (SENT SEPTEL). END SUMMARY

2. BERNARDIC REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT TITO'S ARRIVAL IN WASHINGTON HAD BEEN CHANGED TO MARCH 6 (REPORTED SEPTEL). IN CONNECTION WITH THE TITO VISIT HE REPORTED THAT THEY HAD JUST SENT A CABLE TO BELOVSKI REPORTING THAT THEY EXPECTED SCOTTY RESTON TO ARRIVE IN YUGOSLAVIA ON FEBRUARY 25TH AND THAT THERE WAS A VERY GOOD POSSIBILITY THAT HE WOULD HAVE AN INTERVIEW WITH TITO ON FEB. 27.

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BILITY THAT HE WOULD HAVE AN INTERVIEW WITH TITO ON FEB. 27.

3. BERNARDIC QUOTE RELUCTANTLY UNQUOTE RAISED YUGOSLAV CONCERN ABOUT DEMONSTRATIONS OR UNPLEASANT EVENTS OCCURRING DURING TITO'S VISIT, AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE US WOULD DO EVERYTHING IT COULD TO PREVENT SUCH OCCURRENCES.

4. THE AMBASSADOR GAVE BERNARDIC A COPY OF THE US COUNTERPROPOSAL FOR THE EXCHANGE OF NOTES ON MAP EQUIPMENT DISPOSAL AND NOTED THE TWO CHANGES IN THE YUGOSLAV TEXT AND THE REASON BEHIND THE CHANGES. BERNARDIC INQUIRED IF THE NOV. 1979 DATE HAD BEEN ACCEPTED AND WAS TOLD THAT IT HAD. BERNARDIC PROMISED TO REVIEW IT CAREFULLY AND HOPED THAT WE WOULD BE ABLE TO HAVE AN AGREEMENT PRIOR TO TITO'S VISIT.

5. BERNARDIC TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT HE HAD ATTENDED A MEETING OF THE PRESIDENCY THAT MORNING AND THAT EVERYBODY EXCEPT TITO HAD ATTENDED. ONE OF THE MANY ITEMS DISCUSSED WAS TITO'S VISIT TO THE US. THIS WAS ASSESSED AS BEING ON THE LEVEL OF THE MOST IMPORTANT TRIPS THAT TITO MADE LAST YEAR. IT UNDERLINED THE FACT THAT THERE HAS BEEN A VERY SIGNIFICANT CHANGE FOR THE BETTER IN US-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS SINCE THE BEGINNING OF 1977. SPECIAL NOTE WAS MADE OF THE EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN PRESIDENTS TITO AND CARTER AND THAT THIS WAS INDICATIVE OF THE FAVORABLE RELATIONSHIP THAT WAS DEVELOPING BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. BERNARDIC CHARACTERIZED IT AS A SHORT BUT "VERY IMPORTANT DISCUSSION."

6. BERNARDIC RAISED THE IMPASSE AT THE CSCE CONFERENCE AND CHARACTERIZED THE CURRENT RUSSIAN PROPOSAL AS BEING A CONFIDENTIAL

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"PRESS RELEASE." HE SAID THAT THE NEUTRALS AND NON-ALIGNED NATIONS WERE GOING TO MAKE A SPECIAL EFFORT TO WORK OUT A MEANINGFUL DOCUMENT BASED ON THEIR PROPOSAL AND THE NEW FRENCH INITIATIVE.

7. FINALLY, BERNARDIC GAVE THE AMBASSADOR THE YUGOSLAV PROPOSED TEXT FOR A JOINT COMMUNIQUE FOR THE TITO VISIT (TEXT REPORTED SEPTEL). HE STRESSED THAT IT WAS A DRAFT AND THAT WE SHOULD MAKE ANY CHANGES, ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS THAT WE WANTED. HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT WE WOULD HAVE RESOLVED MOST COMMUNIQUE PROBLEMS HERE BEFORE HIS DEPUTY, SVETOZAR STARCEVIC WENT TO WASHINGTON AT THE END OF THE MONTH TO WORK OUT THE FINAL DRAFT WITH USA. EAGLEBURGER

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